

To: Rhode Island Renewable Energy Fund Advisory Board **(Draft)**  
From: Nancy Selman  
Date: August 2, 2005  
Re: Meeting Minutes for July 12, 2005

Next meeting dates: Second Tuesday of every month. For 2005: 8/9, 9/13, 10/11, 11/8, 12/13.  
***Please note: Change in venue for meeting on 9/13 – it will be held at the Audubon Environmental Education Center in Bristol, RI.***

In attendance: See attached Attendance List.

1. Minutes and Update

a. June 14 Minutes –

- i. 3.b – Bob Grace pointed out that the legislation is clear on purpose: to reduce emissions (not that emissions credits should not be sold off separately.)
- ii. 3.c – The cleanwood biomass standard would allow only clean wood (unpainted and untreated.) Change the word economic to economical. Also noted was the difference in output (air emissions) vs. input (wood stock) monitoring for regulatory purposes.
- iii. 3.d – Narragansett has proposed an incentive mechanism for long term contracts.
- iv. 4 – Vin Rose is requesting that signs be placed at the location of all projects (not just PV) which receive grants from the Fund, noting the participation of the Fund in the project.
- v. 9 – It was noted that the Open PV incentive program for residential and small commercial buildings was closed by the Advisory Board due to the fact that commitments of approximately \$1.4 million for FY 2005 was far in excess of the Program budget of \$125,000 for FY 2005 plus \$250,000 committed but unused in FY 2004 and approximately \$225,000 committed but unused in FY 2003.

b. June 27 Minutes –

- i. 3.e – The solar ready homes incentive structure was changed to provide an additional incentive to be a new construction solar incentive – in other words, the homes are not solar ready, they in fact have a solar electric system included. The \$5000 advocacy grant will not be funded because Chris Warfel does not think it would be productive to try to get building codes changed due to resistance on the part of the builders.
- ii. 5.a.ii – The allocation of \$600,000 to the Small Customer replaces the previously allocation of \$1.10 million (\$1.36 million Program allocation less approximately \$250,000 in earned incentives to date.)
- iii. 9.b.2 should be 9.cc
- iv. 9.a.i. The sentence in the middle of the paragraph should read: “A middle ground position under preliminary discussion among the Fund, EDC and National Grid is for National Grid to not be required to do anything beyond the time when the Standard Offer expires, but to solicit short term and long term proposals, National Grid, EDC, and the Fund would assume obligations during varying point in time – i.e., National Grid assumes the near-term obligation, the Fund or EDC takes the obligation for the later years.
- v. 9.b.i (should be 9.b.) – Biomass cofiring of Brayton Point is potentially a way to satisfy a meaningful portion of the RES requirement. Dominion owns 2 (not 1) coal-fired plants in Massachusetts.

- c. Update -
  - i. It was noted that a Berkshire Wind update was not provided. The update is as follows: The project developer is in the process of procuring turbines. They are asking for concessions on contracts (presumably supply), have selected a contractor, and are waiting for PTC extension.
  - ii. RECA – It is not entirely clear from the update provided by Think Energy, but it seems apparent that the number of RECA participants have dropped out. A complete update had been requested from Think but had not been received.
- 2. Ocean Wind Collaborative – Greg Watson from the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative gave a presentation on a joint effort involving GE, US DOE, and MTC to identify and address technical, environmental and regulatory issues that impact the development of deep water offshore wind energy. The estimated developable potential for this resource for the US is about 90% of the currently installed power production nationwide. The majority is in deep water (>30 meters) far off shore (20-50 miles.) In New England alone, the estimated potential is about 50GW. A framework for the collaborative is under development and will be completed in August 2005. Then a solicitation will go out to hire an organization to write an operating plan for the Collaborative. Ultimately, MTC will hold solicitations for research on policies, technology development, etc. RI can participate by distributing RFPs among qualified entities who could submit proposals for funding of relevant research efforts.
- 3. USS Saratoga Foundation Submarine Museum – Bill Sheridan of the Saratoga Foundation presented a request for \$19,000 for the funding of a 1200 watt PV system plus batteries for the submarine museum. The Board voted not to fund the proposal.
- 4. NESEA Green Buildings Open House - The Board approved a grant of \$1000 for the 2005 NESEA Green Buildings Open House, from the Outreach program budget.
- 5. Voluntary Programs –
  - a. Budget – The Board was shown a budget for Voluntary Programs which was discussed and to which changes were requested. At issue was program and technical support for on-site programs (such as solar and wind incentive programs), which previously had not been considered as a separate line item in the budget. When technical support was shown broken out, the fact that actual program spending is reduced by the amount of program support was highlighted. The Board asked that the budget for voluntary programs be pegged at the allocations which were decided upon by straw vote in March 2005, and that the budgets not be increased by borrowing from other program areas to allow for spending for program support.
  - b. Solar Programs - Chris Warfel of Entech Engineering presented an update on program planning and design for solar programs. The Board approved the following design features of solar programs:
    - i. The budget for solar programs is as shown in the Voluntary Programs Budget Allocation, version 7. (attached.)
    - ii. A solar incentive of \$4.50 assuming RI income tax credit, to be reduced if and when a Federal tax credit is passed.
- 6. Rentricity – Frank Zammataro and Al Spinnell gave an update on the Providence and Pawtucket projects and showed pictures of an installation which has just been completed in Stamford, CT. Rentricity requested and the Board approved an additional repayable grant in the amount of \$7500 for the FERC Assessment Study for the Providence project:
  - a) \$2500 for the FERC exemption request preparation; and
  - b) \$5000 to develop the mechanical design necessary to make the filing.
  - c) The repayable grant is subject to the same conditions as the previous grant.

- d) The funding will come from the RES program budget, because under the current agreement with Rentricity, the RECs from the funded projects must be sold in RI, preferably into the RES and because the grant is repayable to the Fund.  
The mechanical design portion of the Pawtucket project has been delayed because of a delay in receiving hydraulic designs.

Decisions:

1. USS Saratoga Foundation Submarine Museum – The Board voted to not fund a request for the funding of a 1200 watt PV system plus batteries for the submarine museum.
2. NESEA Green Buildings Open House - The Board approved a grant of \$1000 for the NESEA Green Buildings Open House.
3. The Board approved solar programs as budgeted in the attached Voluntary Programs Budget Allocation (version 7) and a solar incentive of \$4.50.
4. Rentricity – The Board approved an additional repayable grant in the amount of \$7500:
  - i) \$2500 for the FERC exemption request preparation; and
  - ii) \$5000 to develop the mechanical design necessary to make the filing.
  - iii) The repayable grant is subject to the same conditions as the previous grant.
- 5.

Actions:

1. NESEA – inform NESEA of Board decision to provide a grant for Green Buildings Open House.
2. Voluntary Market Programs –
  - a. Make changes to Voluntary Programs budget allocations.
  - b. Begin next steps for implementation of solar programs.
3. Rentricity – Write letter to Rentricity outlining conditions of repayable grant.

Attendance:

Capobianco, Julie  
Chew, Bob  
Farley, John  
Grace, Bob  
Hill, Barbara  
Jacobson, David  
Keller, Janet  
McClanaghan, Janice  
Pavlides, Lefteris  
Rochon, Emily  
Rose, Vin  
Selman, Nancy  
Sheridan, Bill  
Spinnell Al  
Stephens, Erich  
Teichert, Kurt  
Vild, Bruce  
Ward, Haroldc  
Warfel, Christopher

Watson, Greg  
Zammataro, Frank